

# **Commuter Rail Strategic Plan**

## **Project Overview**

MAG and ADOT are jointly embarking on a strategic planning process to assess the feasibility and to develop an implementation strategy for commuter rail service in the Phoenix metropolitan area and adjacent areas. MAG issued a Request for Qualifications on July 14 to secure consulting services to develop the plan. Input into the scope of work was provided by a stakeholders group, comprised of interested citizens, elected officials, and agency staff. Key study issues include the following:

- Public input to identify the level of support for commuter rail among citizens and elected officials
- Coordination with private railroad companies
- Opportunities for commuter rail to serve high growth areas and to integrate with other travel modes (e.g., freeways, airports, bus, and light rail)
- Potential environmental risk exposure
- Right-of-way needs as part of an overall corridor preservation strategy
- Potential funding options and legislative measures to implement commuter rail
- Provide decision-makers with a comprehensive perspective on the costs, schedules, trade-offs, impacts, and policy implications of alternative implementation approaches

## **Key Tasks**

### SWOT Analysis

- Assist stakeholders in conducting a comprehensive SWOT analysis to identify Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats related to implementing commuter rail service in Maricopa County and northern Pinal County.
- For the purposes of the SWOT analysis, stakeholders may include elected officials, the Arizona Corporation Commission, railroad operators, business interests, agency staff, and the public.

### Implementation Strategy

- Identify, categorize, and rank issues from the SWOT analysis (e.g., governance, funding, safety, environmental risks, linkages to other modes, and capacity constraints).
- Evaluate funding options.
- Prepare a phased implementation strategy for future commuter rail service options.

## **Schedule**

- July 14 – Request for Qualifications issued
- August 11 – Statements of Qualifications due
- October 16 – Project award by MAG Executive Committee
- Early November – Notice to Proceed
- Anticipated study duration – twelve months